National Aeronautics and Space Administration

LAGNIAPPE

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NASA presents 2001 Honor Awards

Stennis Space Center presented the prestigious NASA Honor Awards in ceremonies Sept. 28. On hand for the program were, from left, Stennis Acting Director Mark Craig; NASA's Fire and Emergency Services Manager Clyde Dease, who served as master of ceremonies; and Johnson Space Center Acting Director Roy Estess. See related story and photos, Pages 4-6.

Site-wide Combined Federal/United Way Campaign under way; goal set at $218,000

Making things happen is the focus of the 2001 Site-wide Combined Federal/United Way Campaign at Stennis, according to Dr. Paul Moersdorf, director of the National Data Buoy Center and chairman of the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign.

"In this year's campaign, it is our hope to achieve a greater sense of awareness that we all can help one another," he said. "We have set a federal agency goal of $218,000."

The kickoff of this year's campaign, held Sept. 26 in the StenniSphere auditorium, featured WVUE Fox 8 television's chief meteorologist, Bob Breck, and performances by the Our Lady Academy Chorus and the Coast Chorale.

The Boeing Company's Site Director Dave Geiger, who heads the industrial contractor's United Way campaign, is looking to increase overall participation.

"If people give one time, they're more likely to keep giving and to increase their giving," Geiger said.

Last year, Stennis' first year to combine the federal and the United Way fundraising efforts, raised more than $313,000.

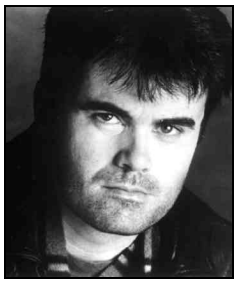
Organizations and charities from Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River counties in Mississippi to the Greater New Orleans area, including St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes in Louisiana, will benefit from contributions of Stennis employees.

See **Related Photo**, Page 3

Celebrating 40 years

Actor to portray John C. Stennis in original play

As part of Stennis Space Center's 40th anniversary celebration, Mississippi actor David Dallas will portray the late U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis in a one-man play entitled, "A Gentleman from Mississippi."



Actor David Dallas

Dallas will don makeup and use a wheelchair to portray the senior Mississippi statesman for performances at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25, in the StenniSphere auditorium.

The program also will include remarks from Stennis Space Center Acting Director Mark Craig, who will reflect on the life of world-famous German rocket scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun, who was instrumental in the establishment of Stennis Space Center as the nation's largest rocket test complex.

Sen. Thad Cochran will provide a special video message and Rex Buffington, executive director of the Stennis Center for Public Service, also will speak on his recollections of the senator.

"David obviously studied the senator very closely — not just his voice, but his mannerisms and movements," Buffington said.

Dallas, a 35-year-old actor, developed the idea for the play when he was a student at Mississippi State University. He was a caretaker for Stennis during his final years as professor at the university.

Dallas took his play on a nationwide tour last year and has performed to positive reviews off-Broadway and in other cities throughout the country.

Born the same year NASA announced plans to build a national rocket test center in Hancock County, these 40-year-old NASA employees are now contributing to Stennis Space Center's current mission. Seated, from left, Richard Gilbrech, Peggy Mosteller and Mary Byrd. Standing Douglas McNair, Sandra Wescovich, Clifton Arnold, Mike Cockrell, John Brasel and Theadore Mason.

NASA selects 12 innovative small business research projects from Stennis Space Center

Stennis Space Center has selected 12 research proposals representing businesses in eight states for negotiation of Phase I contract awards for NASA's 2001 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. The expected value of the awards, should all 12 contract negotiations result in approval, is $840,000.

The goals of SBIR are to stimulate technological innovation; increase the use of small business, including women-owned and disadvantaged firms, in meeting federal research-and-development needs; and increase private sector commercialization of results of federally funded research.

In response to its solicitations, 56 proposals were submitted through the Office of Technology Transfer at Stennis.

The proposals were reviewed for technical merit and feasibility and relevance to NASA research and technology requirements. The selected firms will be awarded fixed-price contracts valued at up to $70,000 each to perform a Phase I feasibility study.

Companies that successfully complete the Phase I activities are eligible to compete for Phase II selection the following year. The Phase II award allows for a two-year, fixed-price contract of up to $600,000.

The companies selected by Stennis for negotiation of 2001 SBIR awards are as follows: American GNC Corporation , Simi Valley, Calif.; Broadata Communications Inc., Torrance, Calif.; Engineering Sciences Inc., Huntsville, Ala.; IAVO Research and Scientific, Durham, N.C.; Intelligent Automation Inc., Rockville, Md.; Qgenics Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.; SpecTIR Corporation, Goleta, Calif.; Spectral Sciences Inc., Burlington, Mass.; WET Labs, Inc. Philomath, Ore.; World-Winds Inc., Stennis Space Center. Both, American GNC Corporation and IAVO Corporation each submitted two proposals that were selected.

A complete listing of companies and projects included in the selection can be found at *http://sbir.gsfc.nasa.gov/SBIR/sttr200l/ph1awards/index.html*.

NEWSCLIPS

El Niño, La Niña rearrange South Pole sea ice — When sea ice on one side of the South Pole recedes, it advances farther out on the other side. This observation has mystified scientists. New findings from NASA's Office of Polar Programs at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies suggest this is the result of El Niño's and La Niña's driving changes in the subtropical jet stream, which then alter the path of storms that move sea ice around the South Pole. The observations are important because the amount of sea ice that extends out into the ocean plays a key role in amplifying or decreasing the warming effects of the sun on our climate.

MAP ready to take photographic trip back in time — After its three-month journey in space, NASA's Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) moved into its new home a million miles from Earth and is ready to chart the oldest light in the cosmos. MAP, launched June 30 and directed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., was placed into a highly elliptical orbit around the Earth. MAP will scan the skies for two years, collecting information on the faint cosmic glow. The data will be analyzed and made into a full sky map in December 2002.

NASA technology to help commercial ventures "listen up" and down — A 3-D audio processor, developed by NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif., for Space Shuttle mission controllers, will soon find its way into virtual classrooms across the country. BreakAway Sound, based in Los Angeles, has been licensed to develop and market the Ames Spatial Auditory Display (ASAD) communication tool. ASAD's design provides highly adaptable, immersion sound technology for applications in physical and virtual computer realms, virtual game and multimedia technology, consumer electronics, and aeronautic, submarine and emergency rescue technologies.

The assembly of the International Space Station (ISS) passed another major milestone Oct. 9, as two Russian cosmonauts executed a spacewalk outside the complex to begin outfitting the station's newest module.

With Expedition Three Commander Frank Culbertson coordinating activities from inside the ISS, Pilot Vladimir Dezhurov and Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin opened the hatch on the Pirs Docking Compartment for the first time at 9:23 a.m. (CDT) to hook up telemetry and data cables between Pirs and the Zvezda Service Module and to install handrails, an access ladder, a cargo crane, a docking target and an automated navigational antenna.

Dezhurov and Tyurin worked leisurely and methodically through their timeline as television cameras on the Canadarm2 station robotic arm and a camera in the Soyuz return vehicle captured spectacular views of the spacewalk.

A second spacewalk by Dezhurov and Tyurin on Oct. 15 completed placement of a series of experiments to the exterior of Zvezda designed to gather data on the effect of exposure to the space environment on engineering materials. Culbertson and Dezhurov are scheduled to conduct a third spacewalk Nov. 5 to complete the exterior outfitting of Pirs.

The new docking compartment will be used for the first time Oct. 19, when the Expedition Three crew temporarily leaves the station and boards its Soyuz rescue craft to relocate it from its current docked position on the Nadir port of the Zarya module to the Pirs. The undocking and redocking of the Soyuz is expected to take about 30 minutes.

That will set the stage for the launch of a fresh Soyuz return craft Oct. 21 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

NASA Administrator launches 'Flags for Heroes and Families' campaign on STS-108

In a unique extension of a tradition that dates back to the beginning of human space flight, NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin has announced that the next mission of Space Shuttle Endeavour scheduled Nov. 29 will honor the victims of last month's terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

In announcing the campaign, Goldin said thousands of American flags will be carried into space by Endeavour and its seven-member crew and will be distributed to the victims' families and survivors of the September attacks.

"The 'Flags for Heroes and Families' campaign is a way for us to honor and show our support for the thousands of brave men and women who have selflessly contributed to the relief and recovery efforts," Goldin said. "The American flags are a patriotic symbol of our strength and solidarity, and our nation's resolve to prevail."

As part of this NASA-sponsored effort, nearly 6,000 American flags will be carried into orbit aboard Endeavour. The mission, known as STS-108, will lift off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

"NASA wanted to come up with an appropriate tribute to the people who lost their lives in the tragic events of Sept. 11," Goldin said. "America's space program has a long history of carrying items into space to commemorate historic events, acts of courage and dramatic achievements. 'Flags for Heroes and Families' is a natural extension of this ongoing outreach project."

The legacy of flying American flags to space started in 1961 with the flight of the first American astronaut, Alan Shepard. Students from Cocoa Beach Elementary School in Florida purchased a flag from a local department store, which was later rolled up and placed between cables behind Shepard's head inside his Freedom 7 Mercury spacecraft.

The flags carried into orbit as part of the effort will be returned to Earth at the end of STS-108, mounted on memorial certificates, and presented to the survivors and families of the victims in New York and Washington, D.C., and to the families of the heroes killed aboard United Airlines Flight 93, that crashed in Pennsylvania.

Stennis kicked off the 2001 Site-wide Combined Federal/United Way Campaign in a ceremony Sept. 26. From left, Dr. Paul Moersdorf, director of the National Data Buoy Center serves as the chairman of the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign; Bob Breck, WVUE Fox 8 television's chief meteorologist was master of ceremonies and The Boeing Company's Site Director Dave Geiger heads the industrial contractor's United Way campaign.

Stennis Space Center presents
NASA Honor Awards 2001

Stennis Space Center presented its prestigious NASA Honor Awards Sept. 28 in ceremonies in the Stenni-Sphere auditorium. NASA Honor Awards are the highest form of recognition the Agency bestows to employees, contractors and members of the community.

NASA's Honor Awards are presented to a number of carefully selected individuals and groups, both government and non-government, who make outstanding contributions to the NASA mission.

"Today, we honor our amazing team of people, who in doing their jobs every day, continue to reinvent government," Stennis Space Center Acting Director Mark Craig said in opening remarks.

NASA's Roy Estess, acting director, Johnson Space Center, Houston, presented the awards and praised the recipients for their contributions to Stennis' outstanding reputation throughout the Agency. "Business-wise, Stennis Space Center is where the Agency wants to go," he said.

Boyce Mix received **The Rank of Meritorious Executive Award**. Mix is director of the Stennis Propulsion Test Directorate. The President of United States confers this award to only five percent of the senior executive service members in recognition of long-term accomplishments. Mix also received the **J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award** that recognizes an individual who has provided exemplary leadership and who has significantly enhanced the role, capability or professional recognition of Stennis Space Center within the nation's space, scientific or administrative communities.

NASA's Exceptional Service Medal went to Dorsie Jones, lead human resources specialist in NASA's Human Resources Office. NASA's Exceptional Service Medals are awarded for significant sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in NASA engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support or space-related endeavors.

NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals were presented to NASA's Cynthia Epperson, deputy chief financial officer for the Financial Management Office; NASA's Bartt Hebert, chief, Operations Division for the Propulsion Test Directorate; and NASA's Douglas McLaughlin, chief, Engineering Services, Center Operations and Support Directorate. NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medals are awarded to individuals for a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution clearly characterized by a substantial and significant improvement in NASA operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science or technology.

NASA Public Service Medals were awarded to the late Mack Herring, Stennis Space Center historian, and longtime public affairs officer; and Ellis Cuevas, publisher emeritus of the Sea Coast Echo and a staunch supporter of Stennis Space Center. The NASA Public Service Medal is awarded to an individual who was not a government employee during the period in which the service was performed. The award is granted for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA.

Robert Heitzmann was recognized with a **NASA Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award**. Heitzmann is chief, Operations and Maintenance Branch, Center Operations and Support Directorate. The Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award is given in recognition of outstanding leaders who exemplify loyalty, empowerment, accountability, diversity, excellence, respect, sharing, honesty and integrity.

The Executive Excellence Peer Recognition Award went to Ron Magee. Magee is NASA's environmental officer at Stennis. The award was presented in recognition of Magee's service as an outstanding ambassador for the space center in dealing with environmental cleanup efforts in surrounding communities. His leadership and performance led to ISO 14001 registration for the Stennis Environmental Management System.

The Professional Achievement Peer Recognition Award went to Don Beckmeyer. The award is presented in recognition of Beckmeyer's technical competence and leadership on the Boeing Catalyst Bed, the Peroxide Hybrid Upper Stage and the Hybrid Sounding Rocket test projects.

Bruce Spiering and Dr. Gregory Carter were presented a **NASA Patent Award** for the Plant Chlorophyll Content Imager with Reference Detection Signals. The imager can detect plant stress up to 16 days before stress is evident.

The efforts of the public test team were recognized with a **NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award**. The team's efforts made it possible — for the first time ever — for the public to be invited, in advance, to experience a Space Shuttle Main Engine test. Approximately 5,000 people visited the center for the July test.

The lead center rocket propulsion testing team, comprised of the Rocket Propulsion Test Management Board and the National Rocket Propulsion Test Alliance, was recognized with a **NASA Group Achievement Award**. The team is credited with efforts resulting in improving relationships between NASA and the Department of Defense.

The efforts of the Stennis contamination assessment team were recognized with a **NASA Group Achievement Award**. The team's assessment process has narrowed the number of sites requiring remedial action or long-term monitoring from 40 to 10.

A **NASA Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to Donald Burchett, chief of the Real Estate Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile. The award honored Burchett's efforts to secure property for a new public visitor center.

More **AWARDS** Photos, Page 6

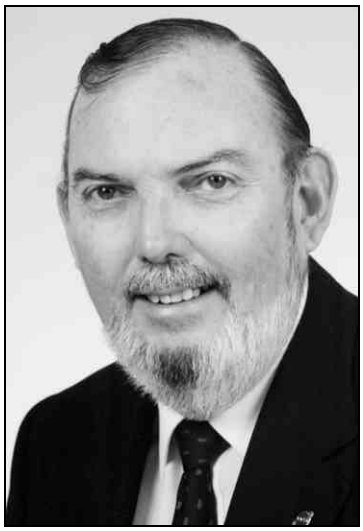
Boyce Mix

Dorsie Jones

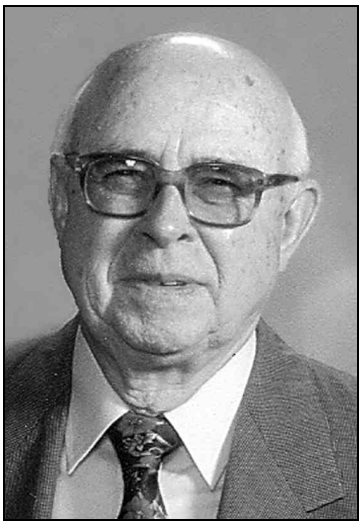
Cindy Epperson

Bartt Hebert

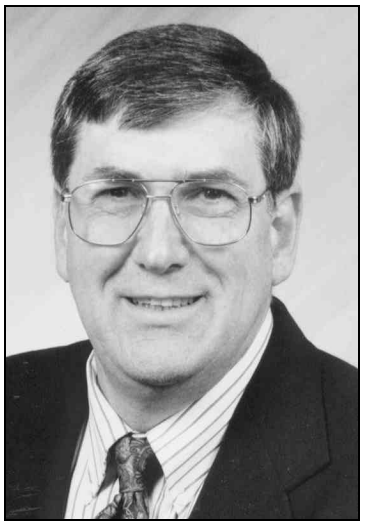
Doug McLaughlin



Mack Herring



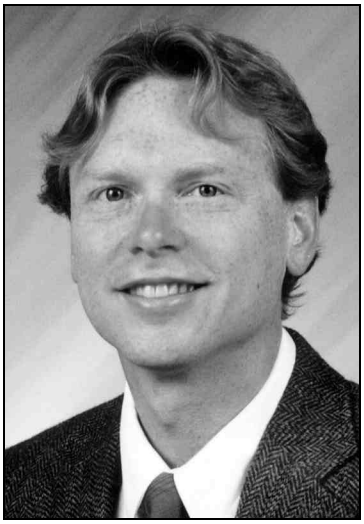
Ellis Cuevas



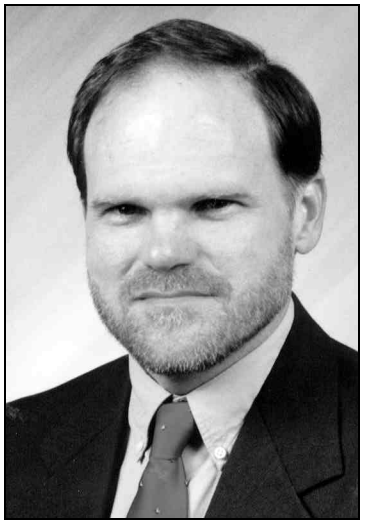
Robert Heitzmann

Ron Magee

Don Beckmeyer



Bruce Speiring



Dr. Greg Carter

More NASA Honor Awards

The Public Test Firing Team members included Boeing's Jim Wahl, James Ball, Kelly Geroux, John Harville, Diane Johnson, Michael McIntosh, Wayne Giveans, Jeffery Henderson, Annette Moran, Michael Griffith, Michael Nichols, Grady Rainey, Kenny Dubuisson, Edward Peterson, John Znachko, Harlon Jarrell, Tony Mendez, Murry Pate, Stephen Steelman, Phillip Watkins, Dean Bourlet, James Dearman, Michael Burge, Leland English, Lynn Ladner, Roger Flynt, William Cowan, Ricardo Alfaro, Edward Anderson, Christopher Coogan, James Dingman, Robert Knight, Paul Lagarde, Russell Rizzo, Christina Zeringue, Mark Juengling and William Davis; Mississippi Space Services/InDyne's Cheryl Bennett, Kenneth Albright, Tory Acker, Vincent Hunt, Wendy Lesieur, Sheila Blair, Joe Weems, Brandi Stricker, Robert DuPont, Betty Ruth Hawkins, Suzanne Stephan and Russeline Veazey; and Lockheed Martin's Sam Wright; Mississippi Space Services' Scott Fandall, Wiliam Moore, and Richard Orr; Mississippi Space Services/Madison Services Inc.'s Ed Hopkins; and Omni-Cube Corp.'s Robert Bowman, Eugene Courteaux, Daniel King, Lloyd Pennisson, Douglas Saucier and Herman Williams.

Stennis team members of the Rocket Propulsion Test Management Board and the National Rocket Propulsion Test Alliance team included NASA's Terry Addlesperger, James Bevis, Keith Brock, Robert Bruce, Dianne Bulen, Michael Dawson, Freddie Douglas, Donald Kelly, Stephen Nunez, Linda McCain, Gerald Meeks, Bonita Renay Nelson, Scott Olive, Fred Patterson, Michael Potts, Benjamin Powell, Kevin Power, Shamim Rahman, Carmen Ramirez-Pagan, Patrick Scheuermann, Charles Stewart, Pennie Turner, Lon Miller and Karen Vander; Lockheed Martin's Lorna Ammond, Vicki Ard, Marsha Ladner, Todd Ladner, James Smith; and MSS/InDyne's Shannon Ellis.

Members of the Stennis Contamination Assessment Team included NASA's Andrew Bo Clarke, Jenette Gordon, Ron Magee, and Mark Warren; GB Technologies' Walter Dees, John Hughes, Kathy Lehr, Bonnie Sanders and Al Watkins, and MSS's Eugene Necaise and Wendy Robinson.

Johnson Space Center Acting Director Roy Estess, left, presents a NASA Certificate of Appreciation to Donald Burchett of Daphne, Ala. Burchett is chief of the Real Estate Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile. Stennis Acting Director Mark Craig joins him.

Around the Center . . .

Stennis Space Center celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The awareness program serves as an opportunity to focus on achievements of the Hispanic population of the United States. NASA's Fernando Figueroa, far left, manager of the Hispanic Employment Program at Stennis, goes over material on display in the cafeteria lobby area of Bldg. 1100. Visiting the exhibit with him are NASA's Harry Ryan, Carmen Ramirez-Pagan and Olivia Hobgood.

President Bush declared Sept. 14 a National Day of Prayer in honor of the victims and families of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Participants included, from left, Anteon's Deborah Taylor, who sang "God Bless America," Capt. Tim McGee, commanding officer, Naval Oceanographic Office and James Rigney, director, Oceanography Department, Naval Oceanographic Office.

Boeing recently approved a grant for $15,000 to support professional development and leadership training for the Stennis Child Development Center (SCDC) staff at Stennis. Participating in the presentation were, from left, NASA's Elizabeth Messer, SCDC board president; Creola James, SCDC director; Boeing's Site Director Dave Geiger; and NASA's Jon Roth, assistant to the center director.

The NASA Federal Women's Program Advisory Council sponsored a Lunch and Learn program Oct. 10 in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Program participants included, from left, NASA's Mary Byrd, representative of the Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force, Cathie McMichael; GB Technologies' Pat Dupar; and NASA's Sandy Mitchell, Linda McCain, and Diane Sims.

Safety Corner

Prevent burns with precaution

Are your workers exposed to any potential burn hazards? There are three basic causes or sources of burn accidents:

1. Fire and High Heat
2. Electricity
3. Chemicals

Supervisors should make sure workers are aware of the potential burn hazards in their areas and how to prevent getting burned.

If You Get Burned

If you or another worker are burned, follow these guidelines:

- Treat all burns as serious. Any burn can be an opportunity for infection.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Don't put ice, ointment or any other material directly on the burned area.
- For chemical burns, flush the skin with water immediately for 15 minutes and check the Material Safety Data Sheets for further first aid instructions.
- Don't break any blisters that may form. Keep burned area elevated.
- Use cool water only on first- or second-degree burns.
- Have all burns evaluated by a medical professional.

QUICK LOOK

■ **Hancock Bank Satellite Branch** located on H Road is open. Drive-thru hours of operation are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday - Wednesday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

■ **Bayou Chapter of Federally Employed Women** is sponsoring a Lunch and Learn seminar at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 1, Bldg. 1100, Room 11111. Dr. Stanford Owen, founder and medical director of the Center for Health Management located in Gulfport and Slidell, La., will discuss surviving the holiday "eating" season. For more information, contact Leslie Sivak at Ext. 8-5847.

■ **The Rotary Club of Stennis Space Center** is conducting a fundraiser Nov. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. outside Hancock Bank, Bldg. 1100. Proceeds will be applied to Christmas Gifts for Foster Children, and Toys for Tots. For more information, contact Brenda Smith Ext. 8-5339.

■ **The Environmental Assessment Office has updated its Web page** at *http://www.ssc.nasa.gov/environmental/* to include links to Stennis ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, environmental outreach programs, and local and national weather forecasts.

NASA's Boyce Mix serves up a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream during the NASA Employees Ice Cream Social on Sept. 26, while NASA's Mike Smiles watches. During the event, Stennis employees were recognized for their volunteerism in support of center-wide activities such as the Mission Family Picnic, Special Olympics, Federal Women's programs and the Combined Federal Campaign.

LAGNIAPPE

Lagniappe is published monthly by the John C. Stennis Space Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mark Craig is the acting director, Myron Webb is the public affairs officer, and Lanee Cooksey is the news chief. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the Lagniappe Office, Building 1200, Room 208D, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, or call (228) 688-3585.

EDITOR: . . . . . .B. R. Hawkins

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Judy Isbell . . . . . .Tom Powers

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER:
Charles E. Jones

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John C. Stennis Space Center
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

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